

**Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)
Teen Exchange- Sexual Violence Prevention Education Programming:
Impacting Youth in Wyandotte County, Kansas**

Issue

Wyandotte County residents are at an increased risk for sexual violence. Trends in sexual violence data indicate that income and its interaction with race are indicators of increased risk for sexual violence. The 2005 Census show greater economic hardship in Wyandotte County than for other Kansans; and estimates reveal that a dramatic population shift has occurred over the past five years with a 32% increase in the Hispanic population. In addition, community perceptions of the causes of sexual violence as evidenced by pre-tests offered to Wyandotte County adults receiving sexual assault prevention education revealed that 22% believe rape is a crime of passion and 33% believe that rape is caused by the way a victim acts or is dressed. In addition, almost 15% believed that most rapes occur in a dark alley by a stranger. 46% of adolescents in Wyandotte County believe that it is sometimes the victim's fault for being raped, and 38% of adolescents believe that a person who doesn't struggle is consenting to rape.

Intervention

Through MOCSA's Teen Exchange: Foundations for Safety and Healthy Relationships, over 1200 students grades 6th-8th from Argentine and Central middle schools participate in a multi-session longitudinal intervention program designed to change the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors needed to reduce sexual violence. The program is designed to build upon itself as the students move from 6th to 8th grade.

Impact

These MOCSA SVPE program activities are impacting the student participants as well as their families and the Kansas City, KS community in the following ways.

Pre/Post Survey Results:

Data gleaned from pre/post test surveys indicate the following:

- Argentine 6th grade students: 9.17% of boys and 10.67% of girls demonstrated a positive change in beliefs and attitudes regarding healthy relationships.
- Central 6th grade students: 5.3% of boys and 5.03% of girls demonstrated a positive change in beliefs and attitudes regarding healthy relationships.
- Argentine 8th grade students: 9.63% of boys and 18.66% of girls demonstrated a positive change in beliefs and attitudes regarding healthy relationships.
- Central 8th grade students: 7.53% of boys and 13.63% of girls demonstrated a positive change in beliefs and attitudes regarding healthy relationships.

Excerpts from Teen Exchange Transformational Storytelling

One 8th grade boy at Central Middle School described the day-to-day struggle of responding to sexual harassment. He discussed the common occurrence of a boy touching a girl without permission in front of him. The young man offered an honest reflection on his actions and feelings stating that he "thought it was bad because the girl didn't want to be touched - she kept on telling [the harasser] to stop. I felt bad because even though I saw him do that to her I didn't really do nothing to prevent him from doing that to her." Though he did not act in this particular situation he explained that, "I chose not to do nothing because if I told him anything he might have started problems." When asked what he would do to respond to sexual harassment in the future he stated that he would, "try to help the young lady instead of ignoring what was happening to her," and added that, "MOCSA is a pretty cool program because it teaches us all these things."

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